

JULY 17 and 18, 2003 FIFRA SAP MEETING AGENDA

**FIFRA SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL (SAP)
OPEN MEETING
JULY 17 and 18, 2003
FIFRA SAP WEB SITE <http://www.epa.gov/scipoly/sap/>
OPP Docket Telephone: (703)305-5805**

Characterization of Epidemiology Data Relating to Prostate Cancer and Exposure to Atrazine

**Thursday, July 17, 2003
Sheraton Crystal City Hotel
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
(703) 486-1111**

Please note that all times are approximate.

- **8:30 AM Meeting Opening** - Stephen M. Roberts, Ph.D. (Chair of the FIFRA SAP)
- **8:35 AM Introduction of Panel Members** - Christopher J. Portier, Ph.D. (FIFRA SAP Session Chair)
- **8:40 AM Administrative Procedures by Designated Federal Official** - Mr. Steven Knott
- **8:45 AM Opening Remarks** - Mr. Jim Jones (Director, Office of Pesticide Programs, Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, EPA)
- **8:50 AM Introduction and Background** - Margaret Stasikowski, M.P.H. (Health Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA)
- **9:00 AM Characterization of Epidemiology Data Related to Prostate Cancer and Exposure to Atrazine** - Jerome Blondell, Ph.D. (Health Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA)
- **10:00 AM Break**
- **10:15 AM Public Comments**
- **12:00 PM Lunch**
- **1:00 PM Public Comments Continued**
- **2:00 PM Questions to the Panel**

OVERVIEW:

Multiple epidemiologic studies have been performed on the herbicide atrazine. These studies have looked at various cancer endpoints, including prostate cancer. The results of a

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cancer epidemiology study of manufacturing workers found an excess of prostate cancer, but there is strong evidence that some or all of this finding could be an effect of increased screening of workers (MacLennan et al. Mortality among triazine herbicide manufacturing workers. J Toxicol Environ Health A 2003 Mar 28;66(6):501-17).

The National Cancer Institute and EPA are cooperating on a prospective cohort study of about 90,000 pesticide applicators and their spouses in Iowa and North Carolina. Published results from this study did not find an excess of prostate cancer among commercial or private applicators, primarily in agricultural settings (Alavanja et al. Use of agricultural pesticides and prostate cancer risk in the Agricultural Health Study cohort Am. J. Epidemiol 2003;157:800-814). However, these workers would be expected to have lower exposure to atrazine, at least in terms of duration of exposure compared to workers at the manufacturing plant.

Question 1

After reviewing the study of manufacturing workers at the Syngenta St. Gabriel plant; the comments of EPA external peer reviewers; public comments from the Syngenta sponsored peer review and the Natural Resources Defense Council; and the supplemental exposure analysis conducted for the St. Gabriel plant workers, EPA has concluded that the increase in prostate cancer observed in the St. Gabriel manufacturing plant workers could be explained by the increase in PSA screening for these workers. Due to the lack of a detailed exposure analysis based on job history and the limited statistical power due to the small sample size, atrazine could not be ruled out as a potential cause but a role for atrazine seems unlikely. Please comment on EPA's conclusion. Please identify any additional data or analyses of the St. Gabriel cohort that the Agency should consider before reaching a final conclusion.

- **3:00 PM** **Break**
- **3:15 PM** **Question 1 Continued**
- **5:30 PM** **Adjournment**

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- **8:45 AM Follow-up from Previous Day's Discussion** - Margaret Stasikowski, M.P.H. and Jerome Blondell, Ph.D. (Health Effects Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, EPA)
- **9:00 AM Questions to the Panel**

Question 2

Other available studies may assist the assessment of the potential association between atrazine exposure and prostate cancer. Agricultural workers generally have a much shorter duration of exposure compared to workers at a manufacturing plant. In addition, agricultural workers are expected to have a different pattern of exposure compared to manufacturing workers (e.g., intensity, seasonality, routes of exposure). Please comment on comparing the results of the epidemiology study of prostate cancer conducted in the St. Gabriel plant to the results of the Agricultural Health Study, considering that the participants in these two studies were likely to have experienced different exposures. Discuss what such a comparison indicates about the relationship between exposure to atrazine and prostate cancer.

- **10:30 AM Break**
- **10:45 AM Question 2 Continued**
- **12:00 PM Adjournment**

As noted above, please be advised that agenda times are approximate. For further information, please contact the Designated Federal Official for this meeting, Mr. Steven Knott, via telephone: (202) 564-8450; fax: (202) 564-8382; or email: knott.steven@epa.gov.